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3 May 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

DIA review(s) completed.

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Thailand: Communist terrorists have stepped up their attacks on government officials and village leaders in northeast Thailand this year.

Two district officials and a school teacher were wounded when their jeep was ambushed by six terrorists in Nakhon Phanom Province on 24 April. Two earlier ambushes and other terrorist actions have brought the total of village leaders and police informants assassinated so far this year to at least 25. By contrast, there were only about 30 politically inspired murders in 1965 and ten or less in 1964.

In addition to the Communist-initiated attacks, there has been an increasing number of armed skirmishes resulting from stepped-up government operations against the Communists. Efforts to improve the government's counterinsurgency capability are beginning to show results. Several sweep operations have recently been mounted in isolated areas of the northeast on the basis of improved intelligence collection. Villagers in these areas are responding favorably to the increased government presence in the countryside.

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USSR: [The first explanations by Soviet officers regarding Defense Minister Malinovsky's recent reference to a "Blue Belt of defense" indicate that the phrase was meant to include a combination of systems rather than any particular one.]

[On 27 April, the US Army attaché in Moscow was told by an officer of the External Relations Department of the Ministry of Defense that the "Blue Belt" is a "complex" of four elements--air defense missiles, aircraft, submarines, and the antimissile systems. The antimissile system was described as "in the process of being deployed."]

[On 29 April, Admiral Sergeyev, chief of the Soviet Main Naval Staff, informed the US Army attaché that the "Blue Belt" is an "entire complex of several defensive systems which includes among other things, Soviet submarines." He added that "obviously" aircraft and missiles are also part of the complex.]

[There has been ample evidence of the existence of the systems mentioned. The Soviets are improving their air defense missile systems and are introducing new interceptors. Also, in addition to the continuing Soviet efforts to improve and augment missile radar and aircraft components of air defenses, there is evidence that an antimissile system may be under construction in the Moscow area.]

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NOTES

USSR-US: The Soviets have turned down a US proposal for a bilateral exchange of observers at military exercises. The US Army attaché in Moscow was informed on 27 April that Marshal Grechko, who had informally broached such an exchange last fall, "does not consider it desirable or possible" to discuss the question at this time because of the "worsening situation in Vietnam." The Soviets, however, noted that if they hold an exercise later this year for foreign military attachés, they might invite a US observer, providing that the "political situation" warrants.

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Congo (Brazzaville): Factional infighting within the radical regime's single party continues. Amidst evidence of serious disagreement within the party over the composition of a new cabinet, President Massamba-Debat is now said to have asked the present cabinet--which does not include resigned prime minister Lissouba--to stay on temporarily. [At present there are fairly strong indications that the new premier will be Ambroise Noumazalay, who is generally considered to be one of the regime's leading extremists.]

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on 28 April 1966 approved the following national intelligence estimate:

NIE 11-7-66, "Trends in General Soviet Policies"

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